



News release

Jan. 14, 2008
For Immediate Release

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Southwestern Minnesota siblings convicted of felony theft of workers' compensation benefits

MARSHALL, Minn.—Southwestern Minnesota brother and sister Joel Haney and Kimberly Miller recently were convicted in Lyon County District Court of felony theft of workers' compensation benefits totaling more than \$19,000.

SFM Companies, the workers' compensation insurer involved in the case, uncovered the illegal activity when the claims adjuster noticed irregularities in the signature on an authorization form. The activity was referred to SFM's Fraud Unit, which built its case through bank records, background checks and an internal review of documents.

Haney, 40, of Tracy, Minn., was sentenced in December to 180 days in jail, a \$432 fine and ordered to pay \$19,380 in restitution to SFM. Haney's jail time was stayed due to credit for time already served.

Miller was sentenced in November to 180 days in jail, 10 years of supervised probation, community service, a \$500 fine and must help pay restitution along with her brother to SFM.

Haney, a workers' compensation claimant who was subsequently imprisoned for an unrelated crime, was convicted of unlawfully continuing to claim eligibility for workers' compensation wage-loss benefits. Under state law, incarcerated individuals are not eligible for benefits.

Miller was convicted of forging and cashing her brother's workers' compensation benefit checks for her own use.

SFM officials said they pursued the case as part of SFM's anti-fraud program, which watches for and investigates apparent fraudulent activity and seeks prosecution of offenders.

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About SFM

SFM, headquartered in Bloomington, Minn., is a customer-owned mutual insurance company providing Minnesota, Wisconsin and South Dakota employers with workers' compensation coverage. SFM offers workers' compensation insurance solutions for employers of all sizes, including claims and disability management, cost containment, legal assistance, and third-party administration. For more information, visit www.sfmic.com.